



Ethelbert Road Primary School

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Date	October 2025
Review Date	October 2026
Headteacher	Michele Kirkbride
Chair of Governors	Jonathan Richardson
Signed copies are kept in school	

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Pupils, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-attendance/children-with-long-term-illness>

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. The responsibilities of the school

If your child is of school age and unable to come to school because they are in hospital or they have a long-term medical condition, the school has the initial responsibility in making necessary arrangements or adjustments to meet your child's health needs. The type of support will depend on your child's specific illness or medical need. To be eligible for help, your child must have a suitably long-term medical condition. Short hospital stays or illnesses do not count.

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The SENCo, with the direction from the Headteacher, will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.

The types of arrangements that could be made are dependent on each individual situation and there is no 'hard and fast one size fits all' approach. The arrangements will be flexible and in response to the demands of what may be a changing health status.

The SENCo will consult parent/ carers to decide on the best approach and types of arrangements needed. The school will also closely collaborate with relevant services.

When reintegration back to school is anticipated, the SENCo, with the direction of the Headteacher, will oversee arrangements to set up an individually tailored reintegration plan.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Kent County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

The 'Rosewood School' is run by the Kent local authority, for children unable to attend school because of a serious illness. <https://trs.kent.sch.uk/>

The school would make a referral to an alternative provision such as TRS.

See the link below for the KCC Policy for Supporting children who are unable to attend school because of medical/health needs. Please note this is currently in draft form.

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/health-needs-policy>

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully

When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
- Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Lisa Vitello, Deputy Headteacher/SENCo. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

Accessibility plan

Supporting pupils with medical conditions

Safeguarding

SEND and Information report

Attendance